

General Introduction

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1986, is one of over 500 national wildlife refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The primary objective of the refuge is to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and preserve the remaining tracts of bottomland hardwoods in the Cache River Basin. The refuge is comprised of numerous tracts of land along Cache River and Bayou DeVew in the counties of Jackson, Woodruff, Prairie, and Monroe.

Public use, hunting and fishing are allowed under carefully controlled conditions in order to maintain wildlife populations at levels compatible with the ecosystem. This permits the wise use of a valuable natural resource and provides wholesome recreational opportunities for the public. Both hunting and fishing are in accordance with state and federal regulations as supplemented by the following special refuge regulations.

Access and Vehicle Use

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge is in the acquisition phase and the attached map shows the actual current ownership. Isolated land tracts which have been purchased are scattered throughout the acquisition zone and have been posted with refuge boundary signs and marked with yellow boundary paint.

Access to many of these refuge lands is currently through private lands and all refuge visitors should obtain permission from adjacent landowners prior to crossing private land to reach refuge lands.

Most refuge roads are open to the general public all year. Roads may be closed at any time hazardous or poor road conditions exist. A locked gate or other barrier means the road is closed to all vehicle travel but not to foot travel unless signed otherwise.

All vehicles must stay on established roads and meet all applicable federal and state requirements regulating the use of a motor vehicle. ATVs may be used on established roads south of highway 38. ATV's are restricted to those with engine displacement of 700 cc or less and with tires having a centerline lug depth of one inch or less. Horses are prohibited (see raccoon hunt for exception). Personal watercraft (jet-ski, etc), hover craft and airboats are prohibited also.

General Refuge Regulations

Public use of the refuge is permitted throughout the year. Developed public use facilities are very limited, but the public may visit the refuge to observe and photograph wildlife, hunt or fish.

Some property posted with refuge boundary signs is currently under lease to the refuge, awaiting acquisition funds for purchase. These lands are available for your use under the condition that you assume all risks and liability for use of leased lands and agree to hold the current owner harmless from any and all claims arising from use of the property. A map is available upon request from the refuge office portraying leased lands administered by the refuge.

Prohibited activities: Prohibited activities include camping, building fires, cutting or defacing trees, littering and searching for or removal of artifacts. Waterfowl sanctuaries, indicated on the map, are closed to all public use from November 15 through February 28. Firearms, archery equipment and crossbows are permitted only during refuge hunts.

No person shall utilize the services of a guide, guide service, outfitter, club, organization or other person who provides equipment, services, or assistance on the refuge for compensation unless the guide, guide service, outfitter, club, organization or person has obtained a Special Use Permit from the refuge. It is your responsibility to verify that the guide, guide service, etc. has obtained the required Special Use Permit.

Sport fishing and frogging regulations: Sport fishing and frogging are permitted year-round in accordance with state regulations. Crawdads may also be gathered for personal use only. Boats with the owner's name and address permanently displayed or valid registration may be left on the refuge from March 1 through October 31. Boats prohibited on refuge from 12:00 am to 5:00 am during duck season.

Commercial activities: **No person, including but not limited to a guide, guide service, outfitter, club, or other organization shall provide assistance, services, or equipment on the refuge to any other person for compensation unless such guide, guide service, outfitter, club, or other organization has obtained a Special Use Permit from the refuge. For the purposes of this regulation, any fees or services rendered to a person for lodging, meals, club membership or similar services will be considered compensation. A refuge Special Use Permit is also required for all other commercial activities (fishing, filming, photography, collecting acorns, etc.) on the refuge.**

Anyone planning to pursue a commercial activity on refuge land, lakes, streams or waters, or on adjacent waters where riparian rights may be vested with the refuge are advised to contact the refuge manager for information on permitted commercial activities and special use permits.

General Hunt Regulations

Refuge permits: Refuge permits are required for all hunts. Permits are nontransferable and must be carried at all times by anyone on refuge land in possession of hunting equipment.

Only biodegradable paper flagging or reflective tacks may be possessed or used to mark trails.

Mobility-impaired hunters: Mobility-impaired hunters may apply for a special permit allowing the use of ATVs on existing refuge roads. Issuance of the permit is restricted to persons who are permanently confined to a wheelchair; require the use of mechanical aids (crutches and walkers) to walk or have complete single leg amputations. For more information, please call the refuge at 870/347 2614.

Firearms: Firearms must be unloaded when carried in/on land vehicles or boats under power. Hunting from a vehicle or use of a vehicle as a deer stand is prohibited. Target practice is prohibited. Hunters accessing WMAs by crossing the refuge must transport firearms unloaded and encased.

Hunting from mowed and/or graveled roads [except when flooded] or from a tree in which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited. The placing of or hunting over bait or salt is prohibited.

Waterfowl sanctuaries: Waterfowl sanctuaries, indicated on the refuge map, are closed to all entrance and hunting from November 15 through February 28.

Trapping: Trapping is prohibited. Beaver, muskrat, nutria, armadillo, feral hogs and coyote may be taken during any refuge hunt by the use of the firearm appropriate for that hunt.

Spotlighting: Spotlighting is prohibited. Artificial lights may not be used to locate wildlife.

Deer limits and Refuge legal buck definition: For all refuge hunts, the limit is one either-sex deer per hunt except for the archery season in which the statewide bag limit of three applies. The total number of bucks that can be harvested through a combination of all refuge hunts is two; those deer may have a total of 4 points or less on both sides including main beams OR have a minimum of 4 points on one side including the main beam. Points must be at least one inch long. Youths under the age of 16 may take any buck as their first buck but must comply with the above legal buck criteria to harvest a second buck. Deer harvested on the refuge are not BONUS deer.

Hunter orange: Hunter orange must be worn in accordance with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission regulations during deer hunts.

Alcoholic beverages: The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Non toxic shot: Non toxic (waterfowl) shot or rimfire rifles only may be possessed and used for all small game hunting.

Hunters under the age of 16: Hunters under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult not less than 21 years old and must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult. For small game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths. For big game hunts, the adult may supervise only one youth. Anyone born after December 31, 1968 must be in possession of a hunter education card.

Obtaining Permits

When signed, this brochure will serve as a permit for all hunts except the quota deer hunt. A quota deer permit is also required for the quota gun deer hunt.

To apply for a quota hunt permit: Print or type your name, address, and birth date on one side of a 3x5 index card or standard postcard.

Indicate the refuge (i.e. Cache River or Bald Knob) hunt for which you are applying opposite your name. Separate applications are required for each refuge.

To apply as a group (maximum of five hunters per group), list required information for all applicants on the same card.

Return completed application(s) to the refuge office between July 1 and August 15.

Duplicated, unclear or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Refuge Hunting Unit Boundaries

The refuge is divided into three hunting units. These are: Unit I - refuge lands between Highway 79 and Interstate 40; Unit II - All refuge lands east of Highway 33 between Interstate 40 and Highway 18 at Grubbs, AR; Unit III - all refuge lands west of Highway 33 from Interstate 40 to Highway 64.

Specific Hunt Regulations

Hunting, taking, possessing, or attempting to take wildlife with an unauthorized guide, guide service, outfitter, club or organization providing assistance, service or equipment is prohibited (See Prohibited and Commercial Activities Sections.)

*** All hunts are closed November 13-17, 2004 for Quota Gun Deer Hunt. Only Quota Gun Deer Hunt permit holders are allowed on the refuge during this hunt.**

Regulations differ from surrounding deer zones and state seasons as follows:

Waterfowl (Duck Coot and Geese): State seasons*. Morning (until 12:00 noon) hunting only. All day hunting permitted for geese (all applicable species) after January, 2005 closing of duck season through end of goose season(s).

State bag limit(s) apply. Non-toxic shot only may be possessed or used. Decoys, blinds, boats and all other equipment must be removed daily by 2:00 pm. Waterfowl hunters may enter the refuge parking areas at 4:45 am and access the refuge at 5:00 am. Building or hunting from permanent blinds prohibited. Cutting of holes or other manipulation of vegetation (i.e. cutting bushes, mowing, weed-eating, etc.) or hunting from manipulated areas prohibited. Retrievers allowed.

Doves, Snipes and Woodcock: May be taken when seasons correspond with duck and/or goose seasons.*

Small Game: Squirrel: All hunting units: September 4, 2004 - February 28, 2005.* Dogs permitted beginning January 15, 2005. Spring season closed.

Rabbit: All hunting units: September 4, 2004 - February 28, 2005.* Dogs permitted beginning January 15, 2005.

Quail: All hunting units: State season.* Dogs permitted.

Furbearer: Raccoon and Opossum: All hunting units: November 12, 2004 - February 28, 2005.* Dogs permitted. Raccoon hunters may use horses on refuge lands in Unit I. Trapping and pleasure running of dogs throughout the year prohibited.

Big Game: For all deer and turkey harvested on the refuge, the zone to be immediately recorded on your hunting license and later at an official state check station is 095. Shotguns with rifled slugs only, legal pistols or muzzleloaders may be possessed and used during the modern gun deer hunt on the Dixie Farm Unit Waterfowl sanctuary and adjacent waterfowl hunt area and the Plunkett Farm Unit Waterfowl Sanctuary.

Only single person portable stands may be used and the owner’s name and address must be permanently affixed to the stand. All stands must be removed from waterfowl sanctuaries by November 15 and from the rest of the refuge by the last day of archery season. The use of dogs is prohibited. The use or possession of buckshot is prohibited on all refuge lands.

Deer (Archery/Crossbow): Units I, II and III: October 1, 2004 - February 15, 2005.* Either sex. State deer limit applies.

Deer (Muzzle Loading): Units I, II and III: October 16-20, 2004. Either sex. One deer limit refuge wide.

Deer (Gun): Units I, II and III: November 13-17, 2004. Either sex. One deer limit refuge wide. Quota permit required.

State bag limits, except for deer, are applicable for all hunts. Refuge lands are located in Flood Prone Regions B, C and D. The descriptions of Flood Prone Regions B ,C and D are in the AG&FC hunting pamphlet.

Refuge lands in Flood Prone Region C will close to all deer hunting when the Cache River gauge at Patterson exceeds 10 feet, as reported by the National Weather Service in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* and reopen when the same gauge reading in this newspaper falls to or below 8.5 feet.

Refuge lands located in Flood Prone Region D will close to all deer hunting when the White River gauge at Clarendon reaches 28 feet, as reported by the National Weather Service in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* and reopen when the same gauge reading in this newspaper falls to or below 27 feet.

Turkey (Fall Gun): All Units closed.

Turkey (Fall 2004 Archery/Crossbow): Same as state season.

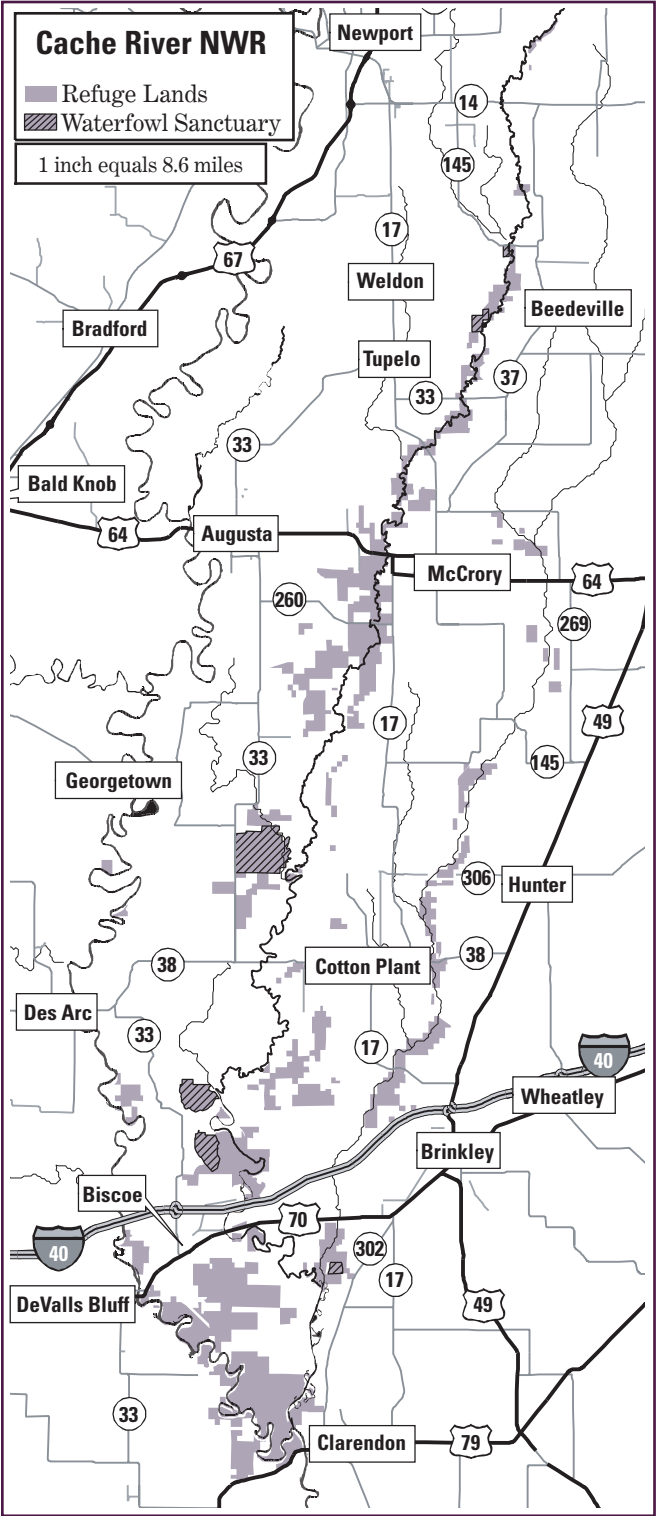
Turkey (Spring 2005 Gun): Unit I and III: Same as state season. Unit II: Refer to AG&FC Turkey Hunting Brochure.



Refuge boundary sign.
Public use permitted in accordance with refuge regulations.



Area closed to all public use.
Some areas such as waterfowl sanctuaries are only seasonally closed. Seasonally closed areas have the specific closure dates printed on the face of the sign.



Signs Protect Visitors and Resources
Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the refuge signs identified in this brochure.

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
26320 Highway 33 South
Augusta, Arkansas 72006
870/347 2614
<http://southeast.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

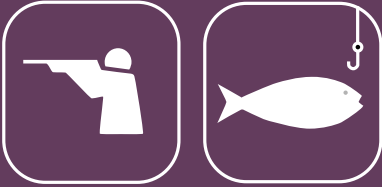
May 2004



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cache River

National Wildlife Refuge Public Use Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2004-2005



2004-2005 General Hunting Permit – Cache River NWR

This permit must be completed to be valid. Permit expires 6/30/2005. It must be carried by the hunter during the hunts. NOTE: Quota Permit also required for quota gun deer hunt.

I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations and realize that hunting on the refuge is a privilege and willingly agree to release and hold harmless the owner of refuge leased lands from any and all liability from my use of leased refuge property and to allow USFWS officers to inspect or search all equipment used during my hunt.

Signature (Permit not transferable)